

THE RIO NEWS.

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NUMBER 50

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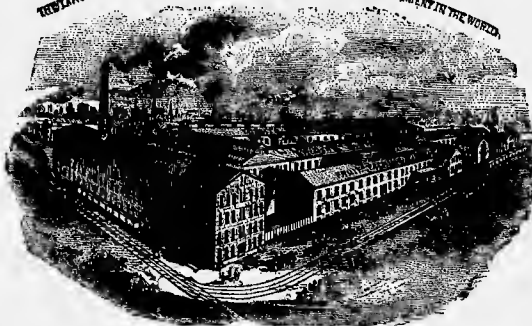
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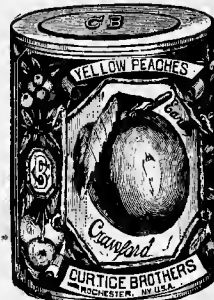
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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES:—
79, Rua Sete de Setembro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, DECEMBER 26th, 1894.

We are now well into the hot season, and so far as we can judge from cursory observation in passing through the streets, very little has been done thus far to put the city into a good sanitary condition. According to the regulations enforced against private parties for many years, no one is permitted to open the streets after the beginning of December, and yet paving and other improvements for account of the city government, are going on in many localities. If opening the streets is productive of fever then we are surely in for it, for "yellow jack" is not at all likely to restrain himself simply because the offender is the municipal council. A principal reason why this disregard of an established regulation should be condemned, however, is the fact that officials generally consider themselves privileged to disregard the law. It should be established that it is the prime duty of an official to set a good example. If he fails, then he should be punished even more severely than the private citizen. The main point to be considered just now, however, is the circumstance that so many streets are torn up and littered with rubbish, and that so many others have been left unrepaired and are full of holes and pools of stagnant water. In places the stench is nauseating. The sanitary authorities will certainly agree with us that such streets are standing sources of contagion. We rarely ever have a fever epidemic without seeing its worst manifestation in the Saúde and Gamboa districts, where the streets are always dirty and the habitations always crowded and unclean. The cleansing of such places should invariably be carried into effect just before the hot season begins, and this should be followed by frequent and thorough inspection. Yellow fever will be banished from Rio de Janeiro only through the best sanitary precautions, and we shall not see the last of it until all these plague spots are eradicated. In São Paulo, we are glad to hear, the authorities are now trying to keep their city clean, and are succeeding. The streets are washed and swept in the early morning, sprinkled again before midday, and again before night. The result is that they are clean and fresh. Under such conditions it will be much easier to hold an epidemic in check, and it pays to spend money for such a purpose. It ought to be easy to keep Rio perfectly clean, for the hills render drainage easy and natural. The only difficult places are the lower levels, but these are much easier drained than New Orleans. The control of epidemics nowadays is largely a question of sanitary administration, a question of cleanliness, good water and wholesome food. An epidemic will hardly obtain a foothold where intelligent sanitation exists, and where the people observe the commonest laws of health.

We have again and again called attention to the serious position in which Brazil would be placed in case of a foreign war. Inasmuch as the country produces but a very small part of the articles of prime necessity consumed here, an active foreign fleet would be able to reduce the whole coast to a half-famished condition in a very short time. A very large part of our local beef supply comes from the River Plate, as also a great part of the hay and maize required. For bread we are dependent upon the River Plate and the United States. Rice comes almost exclusively from India, the domestic product being too small for

notice. Pork in small quantities comes from up country, and a part of the cattle required for consumption along the coast. Fruit, *farinha de mandioca*, sweet potatoes and some vegetables are of home production, but they fall so far short of local requirements that a large part of these articles is also brought in from abroad. Cured and canned meats of every description, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, butter, cheese, and a score of other necessary articles are staples in our import trade. Should a war occur and a hostile fleet appear on this coast, what would be the result? There would be scarcity and high prices at once. While we believe in unrestricted trade and the purchase of products where they can be produced cheapest, we consider it essential at the same time that a country should be independent of foreign producers in everything necessary to the support of life. Brazil will always be weak and dependent as long as her food supplies are sent in from foreign countries, and especially from the River Plate. For many articles she must of course depend chiefly upon other countries, but for beef, pork, cured meats, rice, maize, fruits and vegetables, potatoes, and many other articles, there is no need whatever to go beyond her own frontiers. Instead of seeking after unattainable things, instead of wasting time and money on politics, art and ambitious display, the people of this country should devote their best energies to the development of their own agricultural resources. There is both independence and wealth in such a course of action, and there is, besides, more true patriotism in it than in all the magnificent schemes we hear so much about.

As an old friend, in whose opinion we have every confidence, writes us from São Paulo that there have been some cases of genuine *cholera morbus* in that city, possibly thirty to forty cases with a mortality of over fifty per cent. It has not spread much because the water supply is as yet uncontaminated. Sporadic cases are probably caused by infection being carried by the common house-fly, by which its progress is slow and easily controlled. One of the prominent physicians of this city, Dr. Havelburg, has also visited the infected localities in the Parahyba valley, and has made a microscopic examination of the excretions and viscera of patients, and he also declares the disease to be *cholera morbus*. Both of these gentlemen, who are competent authorities in such matters, have no apparent interest in deceiving the public as to the true character of the epidemic in question. We have doubted that the disease is *cholera*, because of the few deaths reported from the Parahyba valley and because similar visitations have been reported in other years, which were caused by some exceptional local condition. We have no wish to hide the truth from our readers, however, nor to conceal the existence of a very great danger. And, at the same time, we have the strongest desire to avoid creating alarm. It is best, however, that the plain truth should be told and that the situation should be calmly discussed. By this we do not mean that common cases of cholera should be magnified into *cholera morbus*, nor that the petty quarrels of ill-tempered physicians should be served up for every breakfast table. It is sufficient to know that sporadic cases have appeared at certain points, and that there is good reason for the belief that the disease is now under watchful control. In the great majority of places where the disease appeared, no new cases have been reported for some time. This encourages the belief that the sanitary authorities have been successful in isolating the disease. Should their efforts continue successful, we may soon expect to hear that cholera has entirely disappeared from the Parahyba valley. The great danger is the contamination of the Parahyba river, and we are glad to note that steps were promptly taken to prevent this. Equally rigorous measures should be taken to prevent the contamination of streams from which the water supply of this city is drawn. This done, the public need have little fear in regard to infection. Cholera is usually disseminated through rivers and other sources of water supply, and the germ must be taken into the body in order to develop. To prevent this, the people must give intelligent and prompt assistance to the sanitary authorities in the isolation of cases and in the destruction of everything

that can convey contagion, such as the excretions of patients and the clothing and bedding used by them. Chloride of lime should be used before the excretions of patients are thrown into drains, etc., so that the germs may be destroyed. All the food consumed should be thoroughly cooked, and all things likely to carry germs, such as water and milk, should be boiled. Care in all such things, a little patience and courage, and a cheerful obedience to sanitary regulations, and the peril will pass. There is no occasion for alarm, but it is no time for negligence and inattention to sanitary laws.

The question of exchange, like the gold premium in Argentina, is always in evidence. And it is to be noted that those who know least about it, are the very ones who talk most and who are constantly advancing remedies for the evil. Hardly a day passes that we do not hear a score of theories as to causes and remedies, and not infrequently do we hear threats of violence against the men who are supposed to be keeping exchange down. Now, we do not pretend to understand the subject in all its bearings, but there are a few general principles which we do understand and which will bear repeating every day in the year. In the first place, there is no special advantage in a low rate of exchange for the foreign banker and merchant, consequently they have no incentive for keeping it down. Their business will go on under high rates just as well, and perhaps with less risk. The men who are interested in a low rate of exchange, however, are the native planters, who receive much higher prices, nominally, at such times than when the rate is high. A depreciated currency is always a source of apparent prosperity with the agriculturist, for he receives more for his products while his expenses are not increased in the same proportion. In the second place, the question of exchange here in Brazil is very largely one of currency depreciation. In Argentina this depreciation is expressed by the premium on gold, as was the case in the United States, while exchange is restricted to the commercial and monetary transactions with foreign markets. There the rates of exchange vary but slightly, and are not subjects of speculation. As we have no transactions in gold to correspond with those of Buenos Aires, the bankers, importers and others having transactions with foreign markets, are compelled to buy or sell exchange, instead of buying or selling gold, when they wish to transform money from one medium to another. This complicates the transaction somewhat, because it conceals the prime cause of a so-called low rate of exchange, viz., the depreciation in the currency. Owing to the excessive and unauthorized issues of paper money during the past fifteen months and the imperfect information furnished by the treasury in regard to the matter, public confidence has been seriously undermined and depreciation has naturally followed. And just so long as this mistaken policy is continued, just so long will the currency remain depreciated. Other nations have done exactly what Brazil is now doing, and have paid the penalty for it, and it is not to be supposed that this country can escape the bitter consequences of so gross an infraction of universal law. This country has been incurring expenses far beyond its income and these adverse balances, whether expressed in loans or paper money, represent indebtedness. The current value of this indebtedness is represented, in its turn, by the confidence which the creditors have in the ability or intention of the nation to redeem its pledges. If the debt continues to increase, or the government shows no disposition to economize and pay its obligations, then the creditor's confidence diminishes and the value of the nation's pledges, whether in bonds or currency, begins to fall. This is just where we now stand. No one knows exactly what condition the national treasury is in; no one knows exactly how much currency has been issued, nor how much money has been spent, nor what the aggregate of new obligations may be, nor what balance of cash remains on hand. Once there was a large deposit of gold in the treasury for the redemption of bank notes, but no one believes that a penny of it now remains. We know that millions are being expended for unnecessary war material, which is an unproductive expenditure, and we know that political passions are still

active and are threatening new complications. There is no promise of economy in such a situation, nor of immediate settlement of difficulties, nor of payment of national obligations. Under such conditions there can be no improvement in public confidence, nor any real enhancement in the value of the currency. As long as this situation lasts, just so long will we have a low rate of exchange, and unless the political and financial condition of the country improves, we shall see much lower rates before we see better ones. The foreign banks have nothing to do with the matter, for they simply reflect situations created by others. Speculation may even a temporary influence on the course of exchange, but it can have no permanent effect. The remedy is in the hands of the government and people, for the evil is one of their own creation.

Among the reasons given for the acquisition of the Western and Brazilian cables by the government, the principal ones are that they are about to fall into the hands of the Brazilian Submarine owners, and that to prevent this and to provide for a reduction in rates the government must take them over. It is a new thing for the Brazilian government to oppose a monopoly and to go out of its way to secure low tariffs for business men, but we let that pass. The question with which we have to deal is: will government administration give us a good service? Once assured of a quick and efficient service, it is of no consequence to the public whatever whether the cables belong to the Western and Brazilian company, the Brazilian Submarine company, or the Brazilian government. The business man simply wants speed, accuracy and responsibility. It is of course desirable to have the lowest rates possible, but he would much prefer to pay something extra for these three requisites, than to pay low rates for an unreliable service. If the service is defective and causes him loss, he has a remedy at hand where a private company is concerned, a recourse that will be denied him should the lines pass into the hands of the state. From what we know of state management of the land telegraph lines, and of the railways, we know to a certainty that the public can not expect either speed, accuracy, or responsibility from a government cable. The public will be sacrificed every time for the interest and convenience of the state and of the officials in charge. In case of domestic trouble, even of the slightest character, the lines will be closed, and there will be no remedy whatever. Business has become difficult enough, as it is, but it will be a hundred-fold worse when the state controls so necessary a means of communication as these cables. We are not at all interested in their amalgamation with the Submarine, for we believe that the public will derive no benefit, nor suffer prejudice, from such a change. The remedy for any abuse on the part of the Submarine, is always in the hands of the government. A good, effective and quick service over the state's land lines to Pernambuco and to the Uruguayan frontier, would at once give two alternate routes to the merchants of this city. If the government feels for us so keenly, why has it not done this long ago? It could very easily have compelled the Submarine to lower its tariff, if once it could have secured the confidence of the public. But, knowing that his message might be delayed, or mutilated, and that he could obtain no satisfaction in either case, the merchant of this city has preferred to pay the five shillings a word exacted by the Submarine. Instead of investing two millions sterling in these cables, let the government put a commercial wire north and south and employ a few first-class foreign operators for them, and then guarantee the same kind of a service given by the foreign cable companies. If the service thus given is good, the Submarine will very soon be compelled to lower its rate or lose the traffic. That the government has not done this is presumptive proof that its interest in lower rates for the public is purely fictitious. Then there is another consideration which should be taken into account. The business now sent over the Western and Brazilian cables from Uruguay, Argentina and Chili amounts to something over £50,000 a year, at a rough estimate. Let these cables pass under the control of the Brazilian government, and much of this business will at once be diverted to the

Galveston route, and should the service be defective and dilatory, nearly all of it will go the same way. The loss of the Platine and Chilian business may therefore be considered certain. Taking into account the limited earnings of the Western and Brazilian company, whose last dividend was only 2 per cent., the certain increase in working expenses under government management, and the loss in the through traffic which will be diverted to the Galveston route, the government will not find it expedient to reduce rates on its own behalf. It may force the Submarine to reduce its rate, but in the face of a diminished business this will not be done without a struggle. And then, should the projected Argentine cable *via* Ascension island be carried through, it is not improbable that that route may become the favored link in a great around-the-world line, and the present Submarine cable may relapse into a second-class local service.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—Paraguay has established a sanitary station at Humayta.

—The gold quotation in Buenos Aires on Monday was 366.

—The Argentine government has recently purchased nine batteries of Krupp guns.

—At Montevideo the quarantine against Argentina has been raised to eight days.

—A Buenos Aires telegram of the 24th announces the nomination of Sr. J. Henríquez as minister of public instruction.

—It would be interesting to know why the Argentines and Uruguayans have established sanitary cordons on the Rio Grande frontiers.

—The Italian minister at Buenos Aires, Duke of Lucignano, died there on the 18th inst. The funeral services occurred on the 20th inst.

—A Montevideo telegram of the 24th says that a report is current there that President Bolla will be invited to arbitrate between the Brazilian government and the Rio Grande managers. The report is absurd.

—On the 22nd inst. the Uruguayan government decreed five days quarantine against Argentine arrivals. Two more suspected cases are reported from Rosario, and the sanitary authorities have adopted rigorous measures to prevent an epidemic. The heat is still very oppressive.

—A Buenos Aires telegram of the 19th says that the reserves and national guard had been called to arms. We presume it is for the general encampment which was decreed some months ago. The *Pais* correspondent in Buenos Aires pretends not to know the cause, in order to give us a *susito* here in Rio.

—Ludwig's Extract of Meat Company, Limited, notify that they have made an arrangement with the Kennerlich company, their only important rival in the River Plate, whereby the latter cease making and selling extract, and place their factories in the Argentine republic at the disposal of the Ludwig's Extract of Meat Company. —*Financial News*.

—The Paraguayan government has resolved to submit Brazilian arrivals to sanitary observation. The Brazilian secretary of legation has protested. As about twelve days must elapse before a passenger from Rio can reach Asunción, it would seem that further "observation" might be waived.

In quantities, however, there is generally found very little reason and common-sense.

—A Montevideo telegram of the 23rd announces the suspension of the steamship service between that city and Buenos Aires, because of the five days quarantine imposed. It is now said that the cases reported from Rosario and Colastiné were of Asiatic cholera. Great alarm is said to prevail throughout the province of Santa Fé, and rigorous measures have been taken to prevent the disease spreading.

—The "drip-a-penny in the shot" craze, has reached a highly flimsy stage at the "Bar Anatomico" in San Martin and Rivalavia. Entering the bar, twenty-five cents purchases a token which you can drop into any one of the numerous arrangements round the room, and you are automatically served with a drink, from whiskey to plain soda and milk. The idea is ingenious, and will probably attract a number of persons anxious to see and taste each novelty that comes in their way. —*Times of Argentina*.

—The Buenos Aires board of health is not to be outdone, in matter what may occur. A telegram of the 23rd says that a suspected case of cholera had been discovered on the steamer *Maritima*, from Cardiff, and that the vessel had been ordered out of Argentine waters. There is, of course, no cholera at Cardiff, and the probabilities are that the suspected case is nothing but some ordinary complaint. But the average sanitary inspector at Buenos Aires is always discovering something perilous, for it gives him a chance to exercise sanitary authority. It is said that the *Maritima* will come here, in which case we trust that a little common humanity will be displayed at Ilha Grande.

—A telegram of the 23rd says that the Argentine government has resolved to suspend communication between Buenos Aires and the provinces of Santa Fé and Entre Rios. The *Pais* correspondent says that the Rosario authorities are asking for medicines, nurses and ambulances, that the dead are being buried in lime outside the city, that the houses where cases occur are being burned, that great alarm prevails everywhere, and that the press has resolved to repress the news regarding cholera so as not to alarm the people. In Santa Fé new cases have appeared in the quarter of the 11th cavalry. In Rosario the disease made its appearance in the small cabins near the place where garbage is deposited. Official negligence would therefore seem to be at fault again.

—The salary of Paraguayan congressmen for extraordinary sessions, has been fixed at \$1,000. As gold figures at over 700 premium, this does not represent so large an amount after all.

—The well-known Buenos Aires land mark is gradually sinking. Gangs of men can now be seen in the old Custom House who have now partially demolished the turret which used to contain the small lamp serving as a lighthouse to the passing mariners in the "days of yore." The land has been attacked and worn the old white building will be a thing of the past. —*Times of Argentina*.

—The Argentine budget committee estimates the national revenue for 1895 at \$31,723,000 gold and \$24,690,000 currency, against \$33,290,000 gold and \$20,230,000 currency for 1894. The gold decrease is due to a falling off in imports, while the currency increase is due to the income from the new sanitary works. The expenses for 1895 are estimated at \$3,027,000 gold and \$64,000,000 currency, against \$18,418,200 gold and \$66,533,000 currency for 1894. It is estimated that the surplus in gold will cover the deficit in currency (including the redemption of \$60,000,000 of paper money) at a gold premium of 28%.

—It is with great pleasure that we learn of the detention in quarantine at Flores island of a number of gold-colored medal-decorated members of the Uruguayan army, and the minister of the Oriental republic to Brazil, Señor Sagastume. A six days' experience of the discomfort, filth, and general unsanitary state of that detestable spot may tend to induce the Oriental government to take measures to renovate and cleanse the disgusting accommodation. But we are afraid that a daily supply of the best vitamins and liquors sent from Montevideo to these distinguished visitors to the island will be in order and thus nullify their sentiments. —*Times of Argentina*.

From The Southern Cross, Buenos Aires, Dec. 7.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

We regret to say that the political situation has not improved during the week. All the efforts of the President to fill up the vacant places in the cabinet have been unavailing, and the administration is carried on by three ministers: Messrs. Caza, Zapata, and Ferry. Meanwhile the hostile press is becoming more and more violent in its attacks on the government. According to the journalistic oracles we are verging on a state of anarchy and plunging headlong into chaos. Mitre will not accept office because his *dignidad de hombre* is such, he cannot act as salaried in a camp where he might have been commander-in-chief. Pellegrini will not enter because he has been called in the beginning, and he is ruled by the party, the vacuum, who anxiously desire the return of the famous *ascended*. It is the story of the fix and the goat. Reynard was in great distress because he could not go out of the pit into which he had entered to think, but his companion the goat allowed him to ascend on his back and horns on the promise that he would lend assistance when once safe outside. We know the moral: But we saw a powerful party united against him and devised ways and means to break it up. He found a plant instrument in General Bolla. The majority of the Congress is composed of time-servers and incapables. They are the same men or the same class of men who obeyed the behests of Juárez, who were snubbed by Pellegrini, and who quailed like school-boys before a threat of Del Valle. They cannot exist without a master, and Bolla is their god. Hence the cabinet crisis; hence the opposition to Sáenz Peña. Yet if the old man would only display a little more vigor he would soon find that the opposition would melt away like yesterday's snow, and congressmen would become his obsequious worshippers.

WEST COAST ITEMS.

—The Valparaíso micrological exhibition has been prolonged to the end of January.

—A revolution has broken out in Honduras, and foreign naval vessels have had to land marines to protect life and property.

—Chili has decreed quarantine against Argentine arrivals. The steamship companies are certainly having a bad time of it.

—The necessary steps are being taken for the foundation in Santiago of a bacteriological institute, on the lines of similar institutions which exist in the large cities of Europe. The idea has been received with much enthusiasm, and many handsome donations for carrying out the object in view have been made. —*Chilian Times*.

—The government has sold the cruiser *Emmilia* for £220,000. She cost ten years ago £118,000, so that the sale is an advantageous one for this country. The purchaser is said to be Ecuador, which is supposed to mean Japan. It is reported that the government has already secured in England another vessel to replace the *Emmilia*. —*Chilian Times*.

—The important and interesting section of the exhibition representing the marvellous mineral wealth of the state of Minas Geraes, Brazil, was officially opened on Tuesday afternoon in the presence of a select assemblage, including H. E. Brackenbury, who was received at the entrance by the Brazilian minister, and the Brazilian special commissioner. —*Chilian Times*, Nov. 24.

—The customary annual bills relating to the strength of the land and sea forces, and to permit of troops being quartered in the place where Congress is sitting, and within a circumference of ten leagues of that place, have passed the Senate and been sent to the Deputies. The land forces in 1895 may not exceed 60,000 men of all arms, and the sea forces are to consist of six vessels of the first class; eight of the second; two transports; six dispatch boats; and ten torpedo boats; and the number of officers is limited to 416; and of men to 2,769. —*Chilian Times*, Nov. 24.

—The revolution in Peru is gradually gaining ground.

—The bill to throw the working of Chilian coal measures open to all the world, as is the case with other minerals, has been included in bills to be considered in the extraordinary session of the Chilian Congress.

—The Chilian national debt at the end of 1893 amounted to \$77,411,653, of which \$60,302,853.08 were owing at home and \$17,108,800 abroad. Besides this the municipal debts amount to about \$5,500,000, the service of which is met by the national government.

BUSTLE, OR INDISCRETION?

The London *Financial News* of November 30th contains the following letter, which requires explanation. It may of course have been a harmless exhibition of bluster, something of the kind occasionally observed in the streets of Rio de Janeiro. Or, on the other hand, it may have been an indirect revelation of some definite plan on the part of those who believe that a military dictatorship is the highest and best form of republican government. The letter is as follows:

THE FUTURE OF BRAZIL.

To the Editor of The Financial News

Sir,—There are at present in this country several confidential agents of Marshal Peixoto, the ex-President of Brazil, and, judging from their conduct, they are not the most discreet persons in the world. One of them informed a friend in a West-end restaurant—and, owing to the pitch of his voice, informed the public also—that they might talk about Moraes (the President in power), but that Moraes would not be in power long. Peixoto was only having a rest, and in February all would be ready for a *coup d'état*, which would send Moraes to the right-about-face, and place Peixoto in power again with an immense force, aimed to the teeth, at his back. Any amount of ammunition was being bought for this purpose; and when they had done with Peixoto's enemies they intended to bring the Argentine republic to its senses by an appeal to arms. All this is very interesting to the people who are concerned, and, will, perhaps, enable them to adopt such measures as will serve to keep the ex-Dictator in his proper place—if, indeed, he has any such belligerent intentions as are attributed to him.—Yours truly,

ECITO.

London, November 28.

AN INTERESTING GUN TRIAL.

On Tuesday last His Excellency the Minister of War attended some very important experiments with field guns at Realengo. A quick firing gun of 8.4 centimetres submitted by Sir W. G. Armstrong, Mitchell & Co., Limited, formed the most interesting feature of the trials. This gun is designed to use Cordite, the new smokeless explosive, and fires a shot weighing 7 kilos; 25 rounds can be fired in practice against a target being remarkably good. For range 6 rounds were fired in 65 seconds, 3 men only working the gun and of these 2 were quite strangers to it. One novelty in connection with this gun is a system of anchoring it so that it shall not run back after each discharge. It is only by means of some such system, that rapid firing can be realized. Although very powerful the gun itself weighs only 350 kilos, the entire equipment weighing 1,700 kilos, which the limber is loaded with 36 rounds of ammunition. His Ex. General Luz, president of the "Comissão Técnica," superintended the trials, and Commander E. W. Lloyd represented the firm of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Mitchell & Co.

From The Financial News, Nov. 30.

INCOME-TAX ON PROFITS EARNED ABROAD.

Yesterday, before Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams and Mr. Justice Wright, sitting as a Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench to hear revenue appeals, the case was heard of the Denver Hotel Company, Limited, appellants and Andrews (surveyor of taxes) respondent. The question raised was as to the liability of an English company owning an hotel in Denver to pay income-tax upon profits earned by that hotel, and not remitted to the United Kingdom. The commissioners of inland revenue had, for the year ended April, 1890, assessed the amount of profits on which income-tax was payable at £5,743, and it was on this assessment that the appeal was taken.

The appellants company was an English company, which was incorporated in 1889 with a capital of £130,000, and having the registered office in London. The purpose for which the company was incorporated was to acquire and carry on an hotel in the city of Denver, in the state of Colorado, U.S.A. The hotel was under a salaried manager, who resided in Denver, and who had full authority to do all that was necessary for the management of the hotel; but the affairs of the company were managed in England by a board of directors, and the general meetings were held and the dividends declared and paid in London. For the convenience, however, of the Denver shareholders, out of the profits of £5,743, a sum of £1,038 was paid direct to them out of the balance to the credit of the company in the bank at Denver. Mr. Brewster, who appeared for the company, argued that if they were liable to pay income-tax in respect of the profits of an undertaking carried on in America, then they ought only to pay duty on the amount which was actually received in Great Britain, and the duty on the £1,038 paid directly to the shareholders in Denver should be remitted.

The attorney-general (Sir R. T. Reid, Q. C.), Mr. P. and Mr. Danvers, argued in support of the assessment. In the case of the San Paulo (Brazilian) Railway Company appellants and Carter (surveyor of taxes) respondent, exactly the same point was raised. The company was an English company, with its registered office in London, where the contracts, &c., were made, though its principal undertaking was in America. Mr. Finlay, Q. C., and Mr. Brewster appeared for the appellants, and the same counsel as before for the respondents. —*Their Lordships allowed*

the appeal in each case, holding, on the authority of the decision in what is known as the Batholomew Brewing Company's case, that the income tax should only be payable on the amount of money actually remitted to the United Kingdom. —The attorney general intimated in the course of the case that the revenue authorities regarded the question of such importance that an appeal would be taken, if necessary, to the House of Lords.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—The *Agulhas* left Bahia for this port on the 21st inst.

—The plans for the new lazaretto at Tamandaré, Pernambuco, have been approved.

—The quarrel over election returns in Bahia is still in progress. Why not try a new election?

—The city of Pará has authorized various important public works, including surveys for a system of drainage.

—It is said that Baía de Luena will be a candidate for the vacancy in the Chamber of Deputies occasioned by the acceptance of a cabinet position by Deputy Gonçalves Ferreira.

—News was received here on the 18th that a fire had broken out on the British bark *James Whittier*, for some time stranded near Barra Seca, Espirito Santo. The bark was loaded with coal.

—Some military officers have been arrested for sedition at Santa Helena, in the state of Maranhão. The process has been confirmed by the superior tribunal of the state. What they really did, however, is not known.

—On the 12th inst. a detachment of infantry landed in Victoria from the steamer *Maniot*. They at once began to provoke the police, and a conflict ensued, in which several men were injured. Finally the insubordinate soldiers were compelled to return on board.

—The political campaign in Paraná is progressing actively, and the opposition is keeping the field in spite of the violence of the government party. The rule of Vicente Machado in the state of Paraná has been so oppressive and demoralizing that no one can wish him success.

—Our readers abroad, particularly shipping men, will be interested to know that the name of the city and port of Desterro, in Santa Catharina, was changed some months ago to the absurd designation of "Florinópolis." It is needless to add, perhaps, that the old names will continue to be used for some time yet.

—It is said that an autograph letter from Napoleon I., dated 1812, was found concealed in a bucket worn by Mme. Amelie Bonchamps, who died in Porto Alegre a short time since at the age of 101 years. The letter shows that the lady in question was the recipient of Napoleon's tender attentions in her youth.

—The inauguration of fort Aracatuba at the southern entrance to the bay of Santa Catharina, occurred on the 10th inst. The fort is armed with three 70-lb. Whitworth guns, two 32-lb. White-heads, two 7½ Krupps, one Hotchkiss and one Nordenfled. The fort is connected with the city and other forts by a submarine cable.

—The Rio Grande commercial association has been compelled to telegraph to the minister of finance against the wretched administration of the custom-house at that port. A mania is now raging there for the detection of inaccuracies in the description of goods in order to find excuses for the imposition of fines. In this grossest abuse are practised.

—In Santos a tax of five tenths of a real per kilo is imposed on coffee for the erection of a monument to Braz Cubas—a personage almost wholly unknown to the majority. There can be no objection to the erection of this monument, providing the expense is borne by voluntary subscriptions, but it is an imposition and an abuse of authority to levy a tax on any person or product for such a purpose.

—An affair and some soldiers of the line attempted to force their way into a private house in Bahia on the night of the 7th inst., but were prevented by the closed doors and windows. There were many guests in the house at the time, and considerable alarm prevailed. The men, frightened by the report that the soldiers had broken in, jumped from the windows and were badly injured. In the morning the military commandant of the district sent a guard and arrested the disorderly affairs.

—Some days ago the superior tribunal of Rio Grande annulled the processes presented to the state courts against Pacundo Tavares, Escobar and others, and ordered their release. The "law and order" party thereupon began protesting and appealing, and insisted upon a re-hearing of the case. Overcome by the clamor, the court finally consented, and then decided the case against Tavares. There's a heap of justice in Rio Grande, and don't you forget it! If it is not extracted in the first boiling, it surely will be in the second, or third!

—The *Pais* of this morning says that there have been 43 cases of cholera at Barra do Pirajy up to the 6th inst., of which 22 died. On the plantation of Col. Gentil de Castro, at S. Carlos do Pinhal, S. Paulo, there have occurred 45 cases with 18 deaths. Up to the 24th inst. there have occurred, according to the *Pais*, a total of 344 cases, with 64 deaths. It must be remembered, however, that the *Pais* is carrying on a hot argument in defence of its conduct in shouting "cholera" every time a person falls ill with a pain in his stomach.

—A letter from Goyaz to the *Jornal do Commercio* says that in October the exportation of cattle to the Rio market was active, but when the news came of a control for the importation of cattle from the River Plate the stock-raisers lost all interest in the business. They feel that the protection of a national industry has been betrayed. The *Jornal* should tell the good people of Goyaz that the industry of maintaining life is quite as important as that of stock-raising, and that the people down here are entitled to buy their beef at the lowest prices.

—There were 2,053 immigrants in the *hospedarias* at S. Paulo on the 21st.

—The *Journal* is informed that the state of Rio de Janeiro has purchased sites on one of the principal streets of Petropolis for public edifices.

—There were 66 deaths in Amaro, S. Paulo, in the month of November. The births numbered 100, and the marriages 24. The population of the town and district is estimated at 24,000.

—The sanitary report from Barra do Piraí, yesterday, where the worst cases of epidemic have appeared, is to the effect that one new case was reported, one death occurred, and six cases were under treatment.

—The *Journal* of the 25th publishes the S. Paulo vital statistics for November in which the total number of deaths for the month is given as 439, an average of 14.63 a day. This is equivalent to 5,340 a year, or at the rate of 44.5 per thousand, estimating the population at 120,000.

—The last sanitary *boletim* from São Paulo treats of the epidemic which is raging in the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, and says that up to the day of publication (not given) the number of cases received at the hospital in S. Paulo was 38. Of these 16 were cured, 10 died and 12 were under treatment.

—During the month of November there were 106 deaths in Santos, against 96 in the preceding month. There was one death from yellow fever. The births numbered 46 and the marriages 12. We do not know at what the population is estimated, but the above returns indicate a death rate of 43 per thousand for a population of 30,000.

LOCAL NOTES

—There were 2,800 immigrants in quarantine at Ilha Grande on the 18th inst.

—The new Brazilian minister to Buenos Aires, Dr. Fernando Ahoit, left for that capital on Sunday last.

—The discharge of live stock from the River Plate for this market is now made outside the Sugar Loaf.

—The new minister from Austria-Hungary, Mr. E. de Schmidt de Taxera was formally received by President Moraes on the 20th inst.

—It is said that General Moura will leave for Rio Grande early next month. The Castilhos in Porto Alegre are organizing a public reception in his honor.

—It is reported that the Argentine minister at this capital, Dr. Garcia Meron, has sent in his resignation. A subsequent report says that it has not been accepted.

—The sessions of Congress came to an end at 1 p. m. on the 20th, the closing ceremonies occurring at the Senate. The Deputies had dispersed some time previously.

—It is said that an expense entry in the books of the Central railway reads: "1 *palanqueta* (female), 20,000." The *Journal* asks if this instrument of punishment was required for the celebrated prisoner No. 186, 136.

—On the 19th the President returned the bill, placing certain judges on the waiting list, to the Senate with his veto. He considers the bill unconstitutional, as the constitution provides for the judges affected by the judicial reorganization.

—The treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation celebrated in 1891 between the representatives of Brazil and Peru in this capital, was formally ratified by the Peruvian Congress on October 27th last. The ratifications are to be exchanged in Lima.

—The municipal council has authorized the prefect to sign a contract with Godofredo Travassos and Eugenio Compagnac for the construction of a boulevard from the Campo Sant'Anna, on the side adjoining the railway station, to the Meyer station, Engenho Novo.

—On the 18th inst. the police were fortunate enough to capture two well-known burglars, authors of a robbery in a hat store on the Largo S. Francisco de Paula a short time ago. They also discovered the deposit and hiding place of the thieves, No. 1 Ladeira Vilal de Negreiros, where a large number of the missing hats were found.

—It is to be noted that Senator Quintino Bocayva did not return to the Senate after the exposure of his conduct, on the "general indemnity" bill, by Senator Oliveira on the 17th inst. He had accused the president of the Senate with the suppression of the bill, when in fact the bill had not been considered in committee because Senator Bocayva had not convened the committee. He apparently wished to have the bill "sneaked" through without discussion, either in committee or in the Senate. Failing in this, he tried to throw the blame on the president of the Senate. As soon as Congress adjourned, however, Senator Bocayva began discussing the question in the *Pais*.

—The Supreme Tribunal Federal has decided that no state has a right to enact a law of local differences from what is provided in the penal code of the union. The decision is given on an appeal from a sentence pronounced in the state of Piauí, by virtue of a state law, in a case for libel instituted against Dr. Elias Firmim de Souza Martins by the governor of that state. The sentence was seven months imprisonment and 600\$ fine. As the state law is in violation of the provisions of the penal code, the court declares it unconstitutional, consequently the sentence rendered is void.

—There is evidently something wrong in the Brazilian legation in Montevideo. Advice was given of the departure of thirty odd misluggage in the coasting steamer *Destero*. These young men had taken part in the naval revolt, and now presented themselves at the legation to solicit permission to return home. In view of this advice, preparations were made by the minister of marine to arrest the misluggage on arrival. On the 19th, at 10 p. m., a telegram was sent to the *Journal do Commercio* to the effect that no misluggage has embarked for Rio on the *Destero*. Surely the legation there must be trying to make game of the minister of marine—and the *Pais*.

—The Norwegian cruiser *Altida* left this port for Santos on the 21st.

—The Argentine consul at this port, Sr. Joaquim Moreira, has been recalled.

—The Vice-President, Dr. Victoriano Pereira, left for Bahia on the 23rd.

—It is said that the 38th battalion of infantry will be sent to Rio Grande do Sul.

—Ministers Montello and Abbott left for their posts at Montevideo and Buenos Aires on the 23rd.

—The authorities are now sending immigrants up country over the Central railway.

—Owing to quarantine the *NZ* did not arrive here until the 24th. She left the same day for England.

—A large number of recruits from the north have been sent to Rio Grande, to join the battalions there.

—The Argentine minister of foreign affairs telegraphs that the recent orders respecting the national guard, treat of organization, not of mobilization.

—It is announced that Dr. Cui's complete report on the state of new medical capital, located on the table-lands of Goyaz, will soon be ready for presentation to the government.

—Our readers will be interested to know that Dr. Demosthenes Lobo, director-general of the postoffice, left for Europe on the 24th, on a leave of absence. He needs a rest—and so do we!

—We regret to hear that Dr. Demosthenes has lost the gold watch which was stopped in the postoffice in 1892 as contraband. Perhaps he may eventually find it. Such things do happen, you know!

—We are delighted to hear that our old friend English Agostini is about to publish a new illustrated paper. After an absence of five years in Europe, his hand ought to be in fine condition for effective work.

—We have again and again called attention to the fatal results attending the treatment of even trifling surgical cases at the Misericórdia hospital. Is it not worth the trouble to have a matter of this character inspected?

—On the 22nd the sanitary inspector overhauled a shipment of eggs just arrived from Porto Alegre, which he declared to be spoiled. There were 84 boxes containing 3,780 dozen, in the shipment, all of which were condemned.

—The ex-director of the Central railway, Col. Vespasiano, is making the mistake of threatening his critics. When the colonel is able to locate a prison van at the head of the Osvaldo, then his threats will be considered seriously.

—The official Argentine view of the case is to the effect that no epidemic whatever exists at Koszice. Other authorities, however, are to the effect that new cases are appearing, and that they are suspicious enough to require isolation and special treatment.

—The New York *World* of November 25th publishes the following telegram:

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Nov. 24.—President Moraes declines all his influence to prevent the presentation in Congress of charges against ex-President Peixoto.

—The *Pais* this morning was short of its telegrams because the Western and Brazilian operators were enjoying a holiday yesterday. Of course our colleague is righteously indignant about it, and thinks that due notice should have been given. Giving the men a day off on Christmas is an old custom with the Western and Brazilian, as the *Pais* should have known.

—The three torpedo cruisers recently ordered by the government in Germany, are to be 79.30 meters in length, 2.40 metres beam and 3.70 metres draught in service. They are to be built of steel and capable of a speed of 22 knots under forced pressure. They are to have twin screws, driven by separate engines. Each cruiser will carry three torpedo tubes, two fore and all guns 0.105 centimetres calibre, six rapid-firing guns of 5.7 centimetres calibre and four machine guns.

—According to the new army bill, which was voted just before Congress adjourned, the total effective land force will consist of the officers of different classes and grades, the students of the military schools consisting of 1,200 men for the regular army, and 400 men for the schools for the commissioned officers, and 28,120 privates in the several branches of the service. This gives Brazil a larger regular army than the United States.

—The two ironclads ordered by the last government from the Forges et Chantiers company, of La Seyne, near Toulon, are to be of the following dimensions and armament: length 207½ feet, breadth 46 feet 11 inches, displacement 4,022 tons, drawing 13 feet 2 inches. The vessels will have a speed of 13 knots with an engine force of 2650 horse power. They are to have two turrets each, and will carry four 9.4 inch guns, four 4.7 inch rapid-firing guns, two 5.9 inch rapid-firing guns, two 3-inch rapid-firing guns, four 2.4 inch idem, and two revolving guns of one inch calibre. Both ironclads will also be provided with torpedo tubes. The plans were furnished by Sr. Laguerre, the director of the works.

—The *Journal* of the 19th publishes an account of an investigation into an alleged case of cruelty, in which a soldier of the 1st artillery, national guard, was the victim. This soldier died and was buried in the S. João Baptist cemetery. It was then reported to the police that he had died from the whippings received, and the chief ordered an investigation. The commandant of the national guard also ordered an investigation. As a result, the soldier had never been whipped. To settle this dispute, the examination of the body was ordered, which was effected five days after burial, on the 25th ult., when it was found that the man had actually died from the brutal whippings received.

—There was one case of yellow fever reported on the 20th inst.

—The sessions of Congress were formally closed on the 20th inst.

—The steamer *Esperanza* was delivered over to her owners on the 20th inst.

—The general receipts budget was sanctioned by the President on the 24th inst.

—Complaints have been made by the French legation against the telegraph service at Petropolis.

—The *Journal* of yesterday says that an aerial has been arranged between the minister of foreign affairs and the Italian chargé.

—It is said that Comptroller Lafarete, who has been in retirement since the overthrow of the monarchy, is now completing a work on the law of nations.

—It is stated that the Brazilian government has asked the French government for the extradition of René Castelnau, implicated in the affairs of the Compañia Geral.

—The wretched condition of Rio Gonçalves Dias, which is one of the most frequented thoroughfares of the city, ought to convince the city authorities that the delay in finishing improvements is becoming a serious imposition upon the public.

—The *Apoteo* is publishing accounts of the atrocities committed during and after the revolt in this port. It is incredible that such savagery could exist among men claiming to be civilized! It reads like a record of the doings of the unspeakable Turks.

—One of the official announcements of the past week states that the minister of marine declines the offer of Messrs. "Flint & Co." to raise the monitor *Lafayette*, which was sunk in this harbor. We presume that Messrs. Flint & Co. is the firm in question.

—The military detachment sent up to Barra do Piraí to maintain a sanitary cordon, showed its appreciation of the service a few days since by seizing a special train and leaving the place for Paratyba do Sul. Had a group of civilians done this, no penalties would have been too severe for them.

—The residents of the Glória parish are talking about the organization of a body of private night watchmen because of the frequent burglaries occurring there. It is not at all complimentary to the easily police force of this city that citizens should be compelled to maintain private watchmen for the protection of property.

—There were 458 deaths in this city during the first half of December, a decrease of 15 from the preceding half month. This is a very satisfactory return, showing that the death rate is now exceptionally low. There were 2 deaths from yellow fever, 6 from small-pox, 3 from leish, 1 from diphtheria, 2 from typhoid fever and 15 from pernicious fever.

—Burglaries are now of nightly occurrence, and the thieves usually get away safely with their spoils. As the police are unable to do anything, householders must use greater precautions in securing their doors and windows, and a little more severity in their treatment of the criminals. The infliction of a few lashes, or an occasional cartridge, might not be out of place.

—An unhappy passenger arrived here on the 21st on a home place up country without the required sanitary passport. He was at once removed to the disinfection station where he was fumigated, and his clothes rigorously disinfected. He was then placed in quarantine for five days. If he survives all this, he will have free pratique and will be allowed to come into town for a square meal.

—The coasting steamer *Destero* arrived here on the 25th and brought five sailors who had been connected with the revolt. They were arrested by a launch sent from the *Republica*. No misluggage was found on board. The *Pais* intimates that the expected mail shipmen may have already arrived and are now concealed. Our never-satisfied colleague would have them routed out and arrested.

—There was a serious fire last evening, soon after 8 o'clock, at the corner of Rua General Camara and Visconde de Itaboraí, in the building occupied by the Royal Mail agency. The lower part was occupied as a deposit by Srs. Costa Simoes & Co., and is said to have had inflammables. The building and contents were greatly damaged. The Royal Mail offices had been removed to this building only a few weeks since.

—The two principal steamship companies operating between German ports and the United States have advised ticket agents not to sell passage tickets to the following classes of persons: paupers, deaf and infirm persons, persons under contract, assisted emigrants, anarchists, and persons convicted of crime within a year. These rejected classes are not admitted into the United States, and this action of the companies is designed to avoid the expenses of returning the rejected passengers to Europe.

—On the 19th a confidante man went to a poor black woman with the story that her husband had been arrested, but that for the sum of 100\$ he could be liberated. The man claimed to be a police agent. The woman, in great distress, hurried on to raise the money among her friends, and then started out with the knave to release her husband. The pretended agent, however, succeeded in disappearing with the money in his possession. Something ought to be done to punish these knaves as they deserve.

—The *Gratula* of the 24th says that a large number of passengers have arrived by railway from São Paulo during the last few days, and have not required to submit to disinfection, or fumigation. Only the baggage and mails have been sent to the disinfecting station. If reminds us of the absurd ideas in vogue at the River Plate quarantine stations, where great rigor is shown in the disinfection of men's clothes, even to his clean linen, but where the clothing he is wearing is entirely overlooked. And yet, if there is any contagium about men's clothing, it is most likely to be found in the garments in actual use.

—The demolition of that phenomenally ugly structure in the Largo da Lapa was begun on Sunday.

—An extraordinary and altogether inexplicable movement has set in over in Italy. They are reducing the number of generals.

—It is said that the 1st cavalry, now in Paraná, is to be recalled to this city. Our garrison does not seem to be large enough.

—The government has appointed Gen. Roberto Pereira to the command of the 1st military district (Pará), Gen. Frederico Solon to that of the 3rd district (Bahia), Col. Pires Ferreira to that of the 4th district (S. Paulo) and Gen. Baellari to that of the 5th district (Matto Grosso). Gen. Solon was under arrest during a great part of the revolt.

—The *Pais* is rendering a great service to history by the publication of documents connected with the revolutionary government of Santa Catharina. We trust that our colleague will extend the good work to the publication of the documents on the other side also, particularly the orders sent south for the summary execution of prisoners. History to be worth anything must be impartial and complete.

—While the sanitary inspector is occupied in destroying fruits, etc., considered unfit for food, would it not be well to look into the artificial mines, honeys, mineral waters, etc., which are manufactured here. We have known cases of illness occurring after drinking the spurious mineral waters sold, with counterfeited labels, as the imported article. It is not only an immoral and illegal traffic, but is exceedingly dangerous to health.

—In his post-mortem defence of his attack on the Senate for an alleged suppression of the bill granting absolution to Floriano Peixoto for his acts in suppressing the recent insurrection, Senator Quintino Lucerna says: "The press is free to criticize politics and this includes not only every corporation and every functionary, but also (what is more) every public power." That is good republican doctrine, Quintino, but for how long a time has this been the case? And why did you not talk like this one year ago?

—If Pedro de Oliveira does not take the hint, then it must be because it is not convenient to do so. According to the *Pais* of the 22nd, he sent around a half dozen bottles of wine to the author of the article entitled "Pera e o vinho." The wine was delivered to the happy editor, of course, but the others announce that the ideas expressed in that article are not his alone, for they belong equally to the whole staff. Now, Pedro, nothing less than a half dozen for each editor will suffice! That is exactly "where we are going," Pedro, and don't you forget it!

RAILROAD NOTES

—Passenger traffic with São Paulo over the Central line was resumed on the 19th.

—The September receipts of the Paulo Afonso railway were 5,484\$87, and the expenses 12,912\$ 252, showing a deficit of 7,428\$765.

—Why is it that the monthly receipts and expenditures of the Central railway are not published, the same as with other railways?

—It is said that construction is going forward rapidly on the Sapucahy line. The track-laying on the first section reached Pousa Alegre on the 24th inst.

—The August receipts of the Solara railway amounted to 14,073\$750, and the expenses to 19,184\$093, showing a deficit of 5,110\$343. This is another government railway.

—The S. Paulo Railway Co. has re-opened negotiations for government and company to lay a second track between Santos and Jundiahy. It is known that the company will not now insist on a monopoly of the port of Santos.

—Further information in regard to the situation at the station of Entre Rios, fully confirms the reported abuses of the station-master and the military detachment there. Their treatment of residents has been brutal and illegal in every respect. A prompt example should be made of these men.

—The September receipts of the Mogiana railway amounted to 1,309,543\$339, and the expenditures to 549,152\$835, leaving a net balance of 751,390\$505. For the quarter ending September 30th the receipts were 3,805,333\$482, and the expenses 1,728,237\$625, showing a surplus of 2,077,095\$857.

—A commission of eight residents of Entre Rios called on the minister of justice of the state of Rio de Janeiro, in Petropolis, on the 19th in complaint of the Central railway stationmaster at that place. This petition, it would seem, has a prison van, similar to the celebrated No. 136 V of the Central station in this city, where he is accustomed to regenerate any one who leaves his discharges. He has a force of federal soldiers and about two employed to assist him. He of course denies the local police authorities and consults his own pettish pleasure in arresting and imprisoning offenders. It is said that still another prison van exists at Porto Novo do Cunha. The new director of the Central line surely will not permit the further continuation of these abuses!

—It is announced by cable that the Great Northern Railway of Brazil Co., Limited, has placed its claim against Brazil in the hands of the British government. The company claims the sum of £297,100 as indemnity, expenses and loss of profits on the abrogation of two concessions granted by the province of Pernambuco in 1882 to Henrique Smith and Reed Brown & Co. for a railway from Timbira to Goiana, and another from Olinda to Recife. These concessions were prejudicial, it is claimed, by the concession from the national government to the Great Western company for a branch from Nazareth to Timbira. It is an old quarrel and a complicated one. The claimants ask £135,000 on the purchase of concession, surveys, etc., £137,100 for expenses, and £25,000 for expenses of administration for a period of ten years.

10

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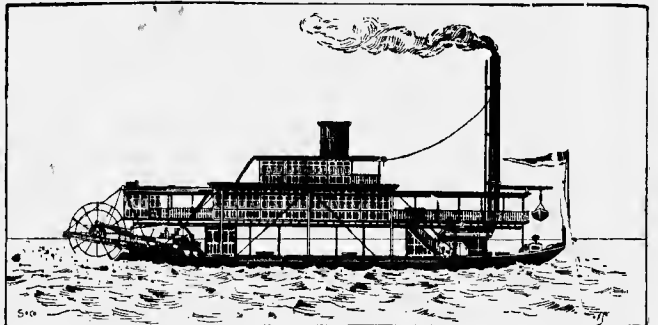
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